

THE  
Canadian Agriculturist.

VOL. VIII.]

TORONTO, MARCH, 1856.

[No. 3

AGRICULTURE—PAST AND PRESENT.

A LECTURE DELIVERED BY PROF. BUCKLAND BEFORE THE TORONTO MECHANICS INSTITUTE, DEC. 21ST, 1855.—CONCLUDED FROM OUR LAST.

A new feature among Agriculturists of modern times which has already been so fruitful in good results, and which holds out such high hopes for the future, consists not merely in invoking physical science in order to explain the why and the wherefore of agricultural phenomena, but also in *the habit of association*, for the diffusion of sound knowledge, affecting both theory and practice. In the commencement of the last century a small body of Scotch land-owners formed themselves into a "*Society of Improvers in the Knowledge of Agriculture*," which eventually led to the establishment of the present Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland—the parent of all similar institutions, not only in the British Empire but throughout the world. I need not dwell on the many and great advantages which have flowed from this and its sister institutions, both in England and Ireland and several of the colonies, as well as in many countries of Europe, and among our neighbours of the United States. Our own Provincial Associations of Upper and Lower Canada; our Bureau and Boards of Agriculture; the provisions which are made for imparting a knowledge of the science and principles of this noble art in our Normal and Common Schools, as well as in our Colleges and Universities; and last, but by no means least, the county and township Agricultural Societies, which cover the settled portions of the Province like a network; these various instrumentalities, under the fostering care of the Government, are, in connection with the intelligence and industry of our people, fast placing Canada among the foremost ranks of agricultural countries. The rising generation of our farmers inherit great advantages. Let us hope that while they emulate the persevering and industrious habits of their fathers—the brave pioneers of the wilderness—that they will not lag behind the intellectual progress of the age, but qualify themselves by character and talent, like those we hear spoken of in ancient Rome, for the highest and most honourable offices in the State.